



**Public Works  
Storm Water Utility**

**(1) Program Title: Drainage Channel Mowing & ROWs**

**(2) Division/Section: Vegetation Control**

**(3) Program Element: (a) TPDES**

1. Storm Water Controls & Collection System Operations

**(4) Statement of Purpose:**

This activity is associated with a TPDES permit requirement. The Permit's Storm Water Management Program Requirement (1) states that the municipal separate storm sewer system and any storm water structural controls shall be operated in a manner to reduce the discharge of pollutants to the maximum extent practicable. Observations have shown that a well-maintained channel helps to discourage illegal dumping. Floatable debris is removed from the channel prior to mowing activities. Vegetative cover of earthen channels holds the soil in place and reduces the sediment transport into local rivers and streams that can have a negative impact to water quality.

In addition the drainage channels were designed with an "n" value. Exceeding this value reduces the conveyance capacity of the channels. Weeds along street rights of way can reach over 6' tall causing a visual obstruction if not managed. Regular vegetation control by mowing reduces noxious weeds, visual obstructions and vector (mosquitoes, etc) problems to the surrounding areas.

**(5) Description of Actions (Statement of Services):**

Mowing of the established vegetation on all improved drainage channels and selected street rights-of-way. Inventory associated with activity includes earthen channels and tops of bank right-of-way vegetation associated with concrete channels. Improved channels have been engineered and constructed to convey a quantity of storm water. Select street rights-of-way include those along arterial & collector streets or street right-of-way where an identifiable property owner is not responsible.

Scheduled frequency of mowing is 3 times per year. Mowing occurs during the growing season and excludes the months of November through February. Personnel and equipment are assigned to one of four quadrants of the City. Quadrants are determined by equalizing infrastructure and difficulty. Each crew consists of a hand crew for areas where equipment cannot cut.